ADVENTURE AWAITS...

Outdoor adventure is waiting for you just 30 minutes west of Cheyenne! Three scenic and distinct areas—the Pole Mountain and Vedauwoo areas within Medicine Bow National Forest, and Curt Gowdy State Park—provide a rich playground for both the casual nature lover and the avid outdoor enthusiast.

Year-round recreational opportunities await: A well-defined system of trails serve as bike and hiking paths in the summer months, snowshoeing and cross country skiing trails in the wintertime, streams and reservoirs offer fishing and boating, and spectacular rock formations provide climbing and photo opportunities!

Getting there is easy with two routes from Cheyenne:
• I-80 West: a well maintained stretch of 4-lane divided interstate.
• State Highway 210/Happy Jack Road: a scenic 2-lane state highway.

HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS
ALONG THE WAY

Ames Monument
A 60-foot-tall granite pyramid dedicated to Oakes and Oliver Ames, two Massachusetts brothers who were extremely influential in constructing the nation’s first Transcontinental Railroad. To get to the monument, take I-80 west to exit 329. Instead of turning north to Vedauwoo, turn south onto West Vedauwoo Road (Monument Road) just a few feet south of the Hermosa Road intersection.

Lincoln Monument at the Summit Rest Area
A popular destination just off of I-80 exit 323, this colossal bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln marks the highest point on I-80, an elevation of 8,640 feet. The Summit Rest Area features fascinating historic displays inside (open summer months) and picture-perfect, breathtaking views outside.

Adventure Within Reach...

While Cheyenne is known for western attractions and events like Cheyenne Frontier Days, you can easily kick off your cowboy boots and lace up your sports shoes for a “walk on the wild side” 30 minutes west of Cheyenne, just off Interstate 80 or State Highway 210.

Experience the breathtaking vistas and expansive grasslands that the Cowboys and Native Americans once called home. These lands now offer wild and untamed adventure for the outdoor enthusiast. From boating to bouldering and biking to hiking, there’s something for every level of expertise.
Things To Know Before You Go…

• While in our great outdoors, respect the rights of other adventure seekers, including private property owners.

• Be respectful of wild animals and the land on which they live. Leave the area better than you found it.

• Conventional restrooms may not be available in the area you are visiting, so come prepared.

• Pets are welcome, but please obey any posted leash laws. Restrictions do not apply to guide dogs.

• What to bring: Cell phone, I.D., area map(s), drinking water, food, sunscreen, and a basic first aid kit.

• Wyoming weather at high elevations can change quickly. Check a reliable weather source before you head out, bring clothes and supplies suitable for the weather, and keep an eye on the sky while out and about.

• Be sure to tell someone where you plan to go.

• Altitude sickness is not uncommon above 8,000 feet. Symptoms may include headache, fatigue, stomach illness, dizziness, and sleep disturbance. Drink plenty of water when visiting high elevations and seek medical treatment if you are experiencing severe symptoms.

• Rules and regulations for man-made fires vary depending upon the area you are visiting. If you build a fire, bring the necessary tools to both start and thoroughly extinguish it. Check specific fire regulations and burn restrictions in advance of your trip.
MEDICINE BOW: POLE MOUNTAIN

LOCATION: 37 miles west of Cheyenne, WY

TO GET THERE: Travel west on Interstate 80. Take exit 329 to the entrance of Vedauwoo. A more scenic route is on Happy Jack Road (State Highway 210) to Vedauwoo Glen Road (unpaved).

WHEN TO GO: Opening day at Vedauwoo is generally around May 15. You are allowed to park outside of the gates and walk into the park (weather permitting) prior to the opening date.

FEES: No fee to enter the area. A $5 vehicle fee is required to use the various picnic areas.

ELEVATION: 8,200 feet

The entire Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest covers more than 2.2 million acres in north central Colorado and northeastern Wyoming. The Pole Mountain section of this magnificent national forest lies just 30 minutes west of Cheyenne. Prior to 1959, this 55,000 acre area was administered by the War Department for military training. It is now managed by the US Forest Service and offers endless outdoor recreation.

The Tie City and Happy Jack Trailheads provide the most popular starting points for dozens of diverse trails for hikers and bikers of every level of experience. The trailheads are also home to numerous picnic and campground sites with hundreds of reservable units.

Numerous streams and beaver ponds provide visitors with easy access to fishing for brook trout, while giant billion-year-old granite boulders provide entertainment for climbers and hikers. During winter, these same trails become a wonderland for tubing, sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, including 10+ miles of groomed skating and classic ski track.

This natural treasure provides accessible, fun family adventure, most of which can be had free of charge!

More information:
USDA Forest Service
Medicine Bow National Forest
(307) 745-2300 • www.recreation.gov

www.cheyenneoutdoors.org

CURT GOWDY STATE PARK

LOCATION: 24 miles west of Cheyenne, WY

TO GET THERE: Travel on Happy Jack Road (State Highway 210) to County Road 106 (milepost 23 ½).

WHEN TO GO: Open 24 hours a day. Park headquarters are usually open from May 15 through November 1, and overnight camping is allowed 14 days. Primitive camping is not allowed outside the designated campgrounds.

FEES: Entry fee $6 (non-resident, per vehicle). Additional use fees may apply, see the Wyoming State Parks website (below).

ELEVATION: Ranges from 8,600 to 7,900 feet

Curt Gowdy State Park was established in 1971 and is now managed by the US Forest Service and offers endless outdoor recreation.

The bike trail system has everything from fast, flowy single-track routes and play areas to rugged rock garden climbs and artificial free-ride features. These scenic trails feature hidden waterfalls and challenging twisty rocky terrain.

Gowdy was a popular starting point for dozens of diverse trails for hikers and bikers of every level of experience. The trailheads are also home to numerous picnic and campground sites with hundreds of reservable units.

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